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CENTRAL FAX CENTERSerial No.: 10/065,283
Attorney Docket No.: F-523

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Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for identifying a version of a form comprising:
initializing a pointing instrument having a form version database;
determining if the form version database must be updated; and
obtaining form version data from the form; and
determining whether the form is an acceptable version using the form version database and the form version data; and
processing pointing instrument input data obtained using the form if the form is an acceptable version.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pointing instrument is a digital pen.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by reading scanning an RF-ID tag.
4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by scanning a bar code.
5. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by obtaining user stroke data.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the user stroke data is obtained when the user traces over a form indicator.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the form indicator is a serial number pre-printed on the form in a dashed font.

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8. (original) A digital pen comprising:
a processor;
a storage device connected to the processor; and
the storage device storing a form version database.

9. (new) The digital pen of claim 8 wherein:
the processor is configured to update the form version database.

10. (new) The digital pen of claim 9 wherein:
the processor is configured to obtain a form version number and to use the
form version database to determine if the form version number is acceptable.

11. (new) The digital pen of claim 10 wherein:
the processor is configured provide an indication to a user if the form version
number is not acceptable.

12. (new) The digital pen of claim 11 further comprising:
an LED for providing an indication to the user.

13. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
updating the form version database periodically.

14. (new) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
disabling the digital pen if the form version database must be updated.

15. (new) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
signaling a source of forms if the form is not an acceptable version.

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16. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by obtaining lookup pattern data.

17. (new) A method for authorizing the use of a version of a form comprising: initializing a pointing instrument having a form version database; authenticating a user of the pointing instrument; obtaining form version data from the form; and determining whether the form is an acceptable version using the form version database and the form version data; determining whether the user is an authorized user of the form version using the form version database.

18. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein: the pointing instrument is a digital pen.

19. (new) The method of claim 18 further comprising: disabling the digital pen if the user is not an authorized user of the form version.

20. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein initializing the pointing instrument includes determining if the form version database must be updated.